Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。

CHAPTER 57
TOWARDS THE SETTING SUN
WOW, WHAT A PRETTY SUNSET.
SHALL WE TAKE A CLOSER LOOK?
JUST TAKING THIS ALL IN...
REMINDS ME OF MY STUDENT DAYS.
SAEJIMA, YOU WERE IN THE VOLLEY-BALL CLUB, RIGHT?
YES, I WAS.
WE'D ALWAYS PRACTICE UNTIL THE SUN WAS GOING DOWN.
OH YEAH? THAT SOUNDS LIKE ONE OF THOSE HIGH SCHOOL DRAMAS.

NO, WE HAD TO DO IT.
IT WAS TO BECOME POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TURN THE TABLES IN ANY SITUATION.
WE COULDN'T GO HOME UNTIL WE SPIKED TEN THOUSAND BALLS OF PURE RAGE.
I GUESS THAT'S LESS NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL AND MORE EXCRUCIATING DRILLS!

IN ALL HONESTY, I'D LIKE YOU TO TRAIN AS HARD AS I DID MYSELF BACK THEN.
I HAVE MY LIMITS!
I'LL BE FINE WITH JUST A LITTLE TRAINING
OH, MY PHONE'S RINGING
JUST A MINUTE, ENA
ATHLETICS SURE TAKES AN AMAZING MINDSET MORE LIKE SCARY...
UGH...
SIGH

HUH? THAT SIGH JUST NOW
IT WASN'T MINE.
IS THERE SOMEONE ABOVE US?
THE SUN'S SETTING, HUH? I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD JUST—
FOOP
KEEP THE OCEAN CLEAN
GARBAGE PICK-UP

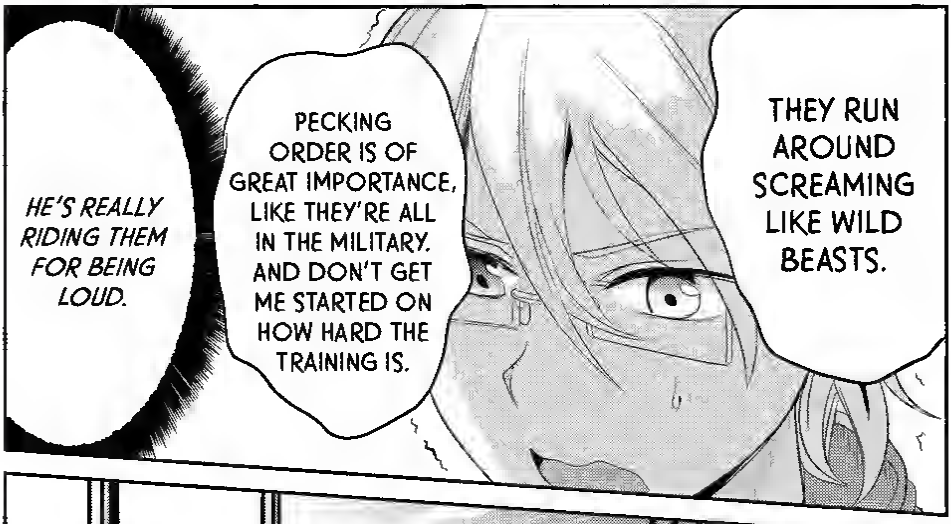
SEAWEED ?!
I'D BE BETTER OFF BECOMING SEAWEED
IT'S NARA-KUN!
LEAP RIGHT INTO THE OCEAN

I'M ALREADY REGRETTING THE CHOICES THAT LED ME HERE
WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO HELP YOU TRAIN FOR THE MARATHON?
WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN RUNNING FOR TEN MINUTES
HARA-KUH, WHY ARE YOU SO DOWN IN THE DUMPS?
WH-WHAT HAPPENED TODAY FOR HIM TO TALK LIKE THAT?

IT'S NO PROBLEM FOR YOU. I'M SURE YOU CAN EASILY MAKE IT ON TIME
WELL, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS RUN
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS RUN?!
SAEJIMA ISN'T BACK YET. THERE'S NO HARM IN LISTENING IN ON THEM FOR A BIT.

YEAH!
YEAH!
DO YOU ALL WANT TO HAVE A MARATHON TO THE SUMMIT?!
OUR TEACHER SAID IT WITH SUCH GUSTO THAT I GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE MOOD AND AGREED TO IT
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO GET INVOLVED WITH SPORTS
AN AFTER SCHOOL MARATHON TEAM? THOSE KIDS HAVE MY RESPECT

I'M NOT A JOCK
R-REGARDLESS, ATHLETICS AND I ARE LIKE WATER AND OIL.
JOCKS JUST CAN'T UNDER-STAND WHAT IT'S LIKE!
DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD JUST RUNNING CAN BE?
TIME FOR SOME SUNSET EAVES-DROPPING!
I MEAN, I JUST SORT OF HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THEM TALKING!
LET'S TAKE CARE OF OUR GARBAGE
KEEP THE OCEAN CLEAN!
GARBAGE


HE'S REALLY RIDING THEM FOR BEING LOUD.
PECKING ORDER IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, LIKE THEY'RE ALL IN THE MILITARY. AND DON'T GET ME STARTED ON HOW HARD THE TRAINING IS.
THEY RUN AROUND SCREAMING LIKE WILD BEASTS.

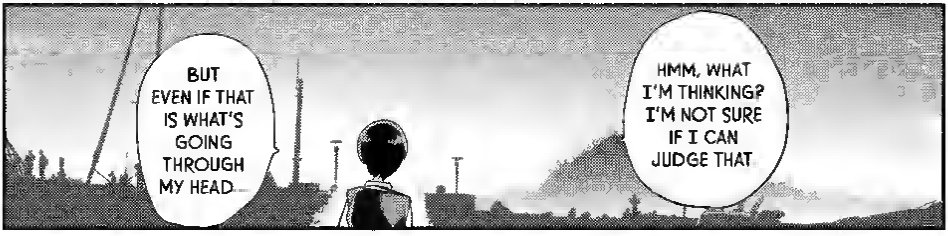
AT A GENETIC LEVEL, YOU'RE A BORN ATHLETE.
NO, I'M SURE YOU'RE ONE OF THEM
OF COURSE, THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN I'M BAD AT SPORTS
LIKE I'VE BEEN SAYING, I'M NOT THE ATHLETIC TYPE EITHER.

I CAN FEEL HOW PATHETIC YOU THINK I AM
YOUR GENOME IS SCREAMING IT!
NOW HE'S BLAMING GENES.
I BET YOU'RE USING A BIKE TO FURTHER DEMEAN MY EFFORTS!
HUH?
I ONLY BROUGHT IT SO I COULD GO TO THE SUPERMARKET FAR AWAY TO PICK UP SOME CHEAP EGGS.
THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE A WISE MOTHER THAN A JOCK, FOR SURE.
CALM DOWN. DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK I'M THE ATHLETIC TYPE?
LISTEN. ISN'T MY VOICE NICE AND QUIET?
I MEAN, 80 PERCENT OF THE TIME, ATHLETIC PEOPLE GET ENERGY FROM SHOUTING, RIGHT?
SO EVEN MIKAGE-KUN PUTS THEM DOWN FOR BEING LOUD?

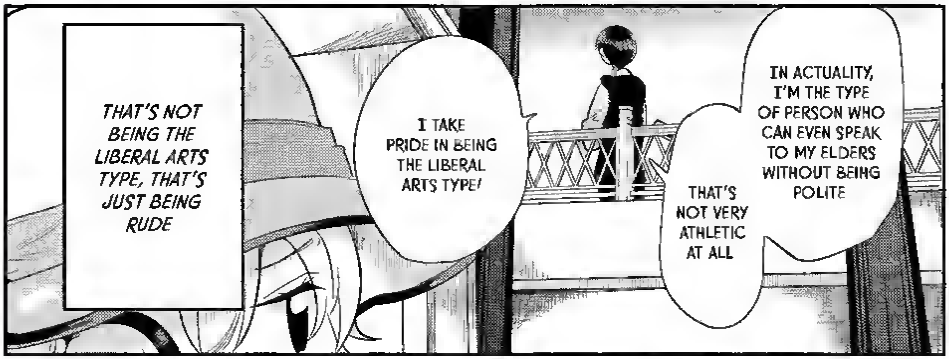
NO, YOUR VOICE IS QUITE LOUD! I CAN TELL!
WHAT? I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE MIKAGE-KUN SPEAKING LOUDLY.
MAYBE HE'S GOT A SIDE TO HIM I'VE NEVER SEEN.

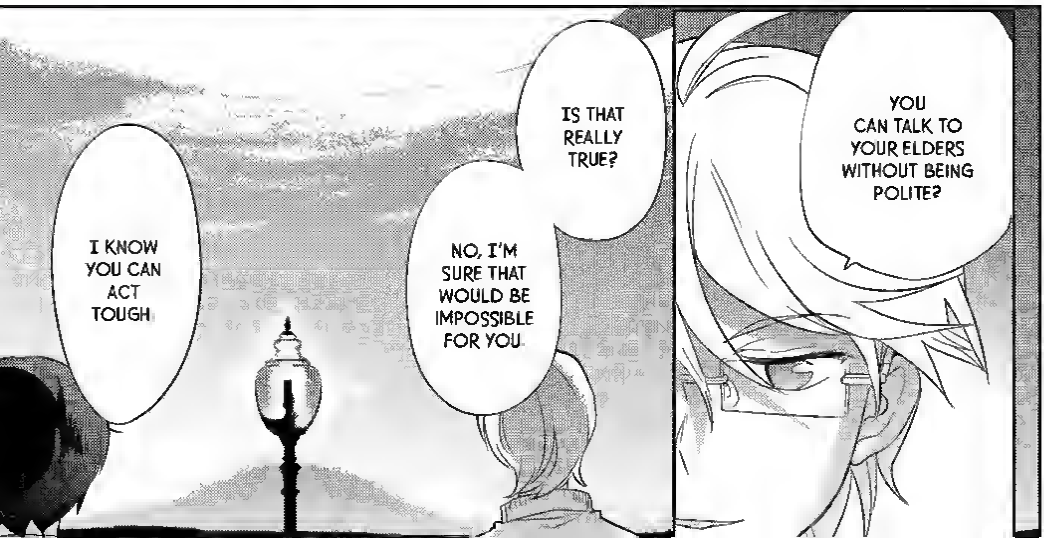
BLUSH
カアア。。。
YOUR VOICE IS--
NO, SURELY THE VOICE IN YOUR HEART IS IMPOSSIBLY LOUD!
FWP
POP
NO, THAT'S ME YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

WHAM
SORRY FOR BEING ME.
YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT I CAN'T HEAR WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...
...AND YELL AT ME FROM THE INSIDE AS LOUD AS YOU WANT!


BUT EVEN IF THAT IS WHAT'S GOING THROUGH MY HEAD...
HMM, WHAT I'M THINKING? I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN JUDGE THAT

AT LEAST YOU KNOW THAT I DON'T CARE ABOUT PECKING ORDER AND STUFF LIKE THAT
I'M NOT THE TYPE TO GET ANGRY WHEN AN UNDERCLASSMAN SPEAKS CASUALLY TO ME OR ANYTHING
HMPH
WE ALL KNOW 90 PERCENT OF ATHLETIC TYPES TREASURE RANKINGS
IF WE COMBINE THIS 90 PERCENT WITH THE PREVIOUS 80, WE HAVE WELL OVER 100 PERCENT.
ER, AT LEAST THE ONES AT THE TOP DO.


IN ACTUALITY, I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO CAN EVEN SPEAK TO MY ELDERS WITHOUT BEING POLITE
THAT'S NOT VERY ATHLETIC AT ALL
I TAKE PRIDE IN BEING THE LIBERAL ARTS TYPE!
THAT'S NOT BEING THE LIBERAL ARTS TYPE, THAT'S JUST BEING RUDE


YOU CAN TALK TO YOUR ELDERS WITHOUT BEING POLITE?
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
NO, I'M SURE THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU.
I KNOW YOU CAN ACT TOUGH.

BUT IF YOU WERE STANDING IN FRONT OF AN AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACH WHO HAD A HUGE BLADE IN EACH HAND,
I'M SURE YOU'D BE GROVELING AT HIS FEET!
I'M SURE ANYONE WOULD IN THAT SCENARIO!

I... I CAN'T DENY THAT I MAY GROVEL IN SUCH A SITUATION...
I MEAN, I MIGHT EVEN BEG FOR MY LIFE...
EXACTLY! EXACTLY!
TO THINK YOU'D BEHAVE THAT WAY IN FRONT OF A COACH!
WHAM
IT'S PLAIN TO SEE YOU'VE BEEN INFECTED WITH THE WAYS OF ATHLETICISM
THE EARTH'S GREAT GARBAGE
NO, IT'S BECAUSE OF THE TWO GIANT BLADES
SO I'M...THE ATHLETIC TYPE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D SEE ME AS THAT KIND OF SWEATY FREAK
NOW HE'S PUTTING DOWN ATHLETES IN GENERAL

BUT, NARA-KUN
I DON'T TRAIN AT ALL
ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF ATHLETIC TYPES TRAIN
I THOUGHT 100 PERCENT WASN'T YOUR LIMIT?
SINCE I NEVER TRAIN,
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD BE A JOCK, RIGHT?
...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
HOW ABOUT YOU STOP HIDING, MIKAGE-KUN?
HUH?
WHAT DOES HE MEAN?
AREN'T YOU TRAINING RIGHT NOW?

WOW! NARA-KUN IS DEFINITELY ON TO SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW IT PUTS MORE OF A BURDEN ON YOUR LEGS, BUT THAT'S THE POINT OF YOUR TRAINING!
WHOOSH
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU'RE TRAINING BY RIDING THAT BIKE WITH PUNCTURED TIRES!
HMPH
THAT BIKE IS ACTUALLY PRETTY BEAT UP.
I'M SURE IT TAKES QUITE A LOT OF EFFORT TO PEDAL.
IF THAT ISN'T TRAINING, THEN WHAT IS IT?!
IT'S...
HUH?

IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO GET IT REPAIRED!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THE FIRST TIME I EVER HEARD HIM RAISE HIS VOICE WAS TO PROCLAIM HIS OWN MISFORTUNE.
WHATEVER THIS BREAK HAS LASTED TOO LONG!
BAM!
DING
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT WANTED TO GET BETTER AT MARATHONS, RIGHT?!
UGH
THEN YOU CAN TRY A LITTLE HARDER!
NO, I'M...
COME ON! GET RUNNING, NARA-KUN!
EEP!
U-UNDERSTOOD, COACH MIKAGE!
EVEN THOUGH HE REPEATEDLY PUT DOWN ATHLETES, HE'S ACTING JUST LIKE ONE NOW!

ATHLETIC PEOPLE ARE AMAZING
UM, I'M NOT SURE WHO THEY ARE, BUT I THINK THEY'RE DOING SOME SORT OF TRAINING
ONE, TWO!
ONE, TWO!
THANKS FOR WAITING, ENA
OH, WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE? I GUESS THAT'S YOUTH FOR YOU
SAEJIMA
PERSONALLY, I'D RATHER JUST TRAIN OCCASIONALLY YUP, THAT'S ME!
DESPITE SAYING THAT...
TREMBLE
LOOK AT HER SHOW OFF HER OWN UNIQUE TRAINING!
MAYBE SHE DID IT BECAUSE I SAID I WISH SHE TRAINED LIKE ME?
I MISSED MY CHANCE TO PUT THIS DOWN
BUT IF YOU KEEP TRAINING WITH ONLY ONE ARM, YOU'RE GOING TO BE OFF BALANCE, ENA!

English Digital Edition
Chapter 057

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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